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8 December 1959

Mr. Leo M. Goodman
Chief, Division of Intelligence
Collection and Distribution
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Leo:

Pursuant to my letter to you of 5 November 1959 proposing a conference of Publications Officers in Cairo, and the pertinent discussion at the 1 December 1959 meeting of PROCIB, I am writing additional factors which, in my opinion, make such a conference necessary.

There are two important targets for procurement that must be stressed over and over again. These are Communist China and Africa. By the time of the conference we will probably have more definite information on the situation with regard to the availability of Communist Chinese publications. In some respects we are in the same situation with regard to these publications as we were with Russian publications, say 8-10 years ago. The priority for procurement is high. Publications Officers at all posts should be constantly on the alert for reporting any trends, availability, effectiveness of any embargoes, etc.

You have already received some indications as to the paucity of material from Africa. Some time ago, a despatch from our Moscow Embassy indicated that the USSR has established an African Institute. Two of our national libraries, the Library of Congress and the Department of Agriculture Library, have indicated by letter to me that collection from Africa should be improved. The Washington Post of 7 December 1959 reported that the Library of Congress has received a grant of \$200,000 from the Carnegie Corporation to establish an Africana section in its reference department. Africa is in a state of flux; much can be done to improve our knowledge of the changes by procurement of all written information available.

The Public Law 480 proposals of the Library of Congress and the National Science Foundation with regard to the acquisition, cataloging and translation of foreign publications from certain countries in the Middle and Far East, constitute an important program with which all Publications Officers should be familiar. At the 1 December 1959 meeting of PROCIB, both the Library of Congress and the National Science Foundation representatives indicated an interest in sending delegates to the proposed Cairo conference.

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The change-over in personnel occupying Publications Officer assignments is an additional factor to be considered. Dorothea Wool, Roger Gifford, and Paul Smith are all fairly recent appointees. I am sure that you are aware of some of the difficulties in the program, particularly in connection with Moscow as is indicated in Despatch 246, of 13 November 1959, from there.

I think that you will also agree that it is important for the field to have as close contact with home officials as possible. The interchange of ideas, problems and solutions that such a conference provides the Publications Officers, contribute to the efficient performance of their duties. For example, we should have a thorough discussion of the improvements in the funding procedures since the Paris Publications Officer conference, including the oft-proposed single fund concept.

I am attaching a proposed agenda for the conference, which I would be happy to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

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Chairman, Committee on Procurement
of
Foreign Publications

Attachment

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